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PRESIDENT WILSON

HONORARY CITIZEN OF FLORENCE

(JULY 4th 1918)

ASSISTENZA E RESISTENZA MORALE
ORSANMICHELE - FLORENCE, ITALY

By Transfer
JAN 9 1919

Resolutions of the Comunal Council

The Comunal Council of Florence, having met in General Extraordinary Assembly on the 29th day of June, 1918:

CONSIDERING THAT

The United States of North America celebrates on the fourth day of the month of July, the solemn anniversary of the proclamation of their Independence, a golden date in the history of human civilization;

AND CONSIDERING THAT:

The American Union is now the ally of our Nation in the war for the defence of Liberty, and the Independence of Peoples against the forces of barbaric ferocity and overbearing despotism let loose against them;

AND CONSIDERING THAT:

The President of the Union, by promoting the magnanimous entrance of the United States into the titanic struggle, has in his speeches and in his messages, with unflagging and farseeing faith ever spoken the Word which stands for the ideals of Liberty and of Civilization;

With the object of rendering wider and more fertile the spiritual bonds which are being forged between the young American Nation, and the ancient Comune of Florence, to which belonged Paolo Dal Pozzo Toscanelli, *the originator of that bold design which was later carried out in the person of Christopher Columbus;* Amerigo Vespucci *to whom fell the good fortune of having the new world named after him;* Giovanni da Verrazzano *the discoverer of the river which took its name from Hudson;*

And considering it most appropriate to share, in this year of common action, ever to remain memorable, to take part in the Anniversary of the friendly Nation, and to honour her in the person of her President, by causing him to be enrolled in that Citizenship, in which were inscribed immortal names representative of the Action and Thought of Centuries.

RESOLVED THAT

WOODROW WILSON

President of the United States of North America
be proclaimed an Honorary Citizen of Florence.

It is ordered that the present Resolutions be presented to the new Honorary Citizen in the form of a Diploma, bearing the vermillion Lily, no longer a symbol of division but of harmony, and subscribed to by the Syndic Gonfaloniere of the People and Comune, and by his Assessors.

FROM THE WAR MESSAGE DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT WILSON BEFORE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS ON APRIL 2, 1917.

. . . . . .

" The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a warfare against mankind.

" It is a war against all nations. American ships have been sunk, American lives taken, in ways which it has stirred us very deeply to learn of, but the ships and people of other neutral and friendly nations have been sunk and overwhelmed in the waters in the same way. There has been no discrimination ".

. . . . . .

" The challenge is to all mankind. Each nation must decide for itself how it will meet it. The choice we make for ourselves must be made with a moderation of counsel and a temperateness of judgement befitting our character and our motives as a Nation. We must put excited feeling away. Our motive will not be revenge or the victorious assertion of the physical might of the Nation, but only the vindication of right, of human right, of which we are only a single champion ".

. . . . . .

With a profound sense of the solemn and even tragical character of the step I am taking and of the grave responsibilities which it involves, but in unhesitating obedience to what I deem my constitutional duty, I advise

that the Congress declare the recent course of the Imperial German Government to be in fact nothing less than war against the Government and people of the United States; that it formally accept the status of belligerent which has thus been thrust upon it; and that it take immediate steps not only to put the country in a more thorough state of defense, but also to exert all its power and employ all its resources to bring the Government of the German Empire to terms and end the war ".

. . . . . .

" Neutrality is no longer feasible or desiderable where the peace of the world is involved and the freedom of its peoples, and the menace to that peace and freedom lies in the existence of autocratic governments, backed by organized force which is controlled wholly by their will, not by the will of their people. We have seen the last of neutrality in such circumstances.

. . . . . .

" We are now about to accept the gage of battle with the natural foe to liberty, and shall, if necessary, spend the whole force of the nation to check and nullify its pretensions and its power. We are glad now that we see the facts with no veil of false pretense about them, to fight thus for the ultimate peace of the world and for the liberation of its peoples, the German peoples included; for the rights of nations, great and small, and the privilege

of men everywhere to choose their way of life and of obedience.

"The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ouselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them".

. . . . . .

"It is a distressing and oppressive duty, gentlemen of the Congress, which I have performed in thus addressing you. There are, it may be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great, peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance.

"But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts — for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own Governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free people as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free.

"To such a task we can dedicate our

lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured.

" God helping her, she can do no other ".

M.r WILSON ON WAR DUTY

(At a Red Cross mass meeting, May 18, 1918, at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York).

. . . . . .

" There are two duties with which we are face to face. The first duty is to win the war. And the second duty is that which goes hand in hand with it, is to win it greatly and worthily, showing not only the real quality of our power, but the real quality of our purpuse and of ourselves. Of course the duty that we must keep in the foreground until it is accomplished is to win the war. I have heard gentlemen recently say that we must get five million men ready. Why limit to to five milion? I have asked the Congress of the United States to name no limit because Congress intends, I am sure, as we all intend, that every ship that can carry men or supplies shall go laden upon every voyage, with every man and every supply she can carry.

" And we are not to be diverted from the grim purpuse of winning the war by any insincere approaches upon the subject of peace. I can say with a clear conscience

that I have tasted those intimations and have found them insincere. I now recognize them for what they are, an opportunity to have a free hand, particulary in the East, to carry out purposes of conquest and exploitation. Every proposal with regard to accomodation in the West involves a reservation with regard to the East.

« Now, so far as I am concerned I intend to stand by Russia as well as France. The helpless and friendless are the very ones that need friends and succour, and if any man in Germany thinks we are going to sacrifice anybody for our own sake I tell them now they are mistaken, for the glory of this war, my fellow-citizens, so far as we are concerned, is that it is, perhaps for the first time in history, an unselfish war; I could not be proud to fight for a selfish purpuse, but I can be proud to fight for mankind. If they wish for peace, let them come forward through accredited representatives and lay their terms on the table. We have laid ours, and they know what they are. »

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M.r WILSON'S MESSAGE TO THE ITALIAN PEOPLE CELEBRATING THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRANCE OF ITALY INTO THE WAR.

WASHINGTON May 23, 1918.

" I am sure, I am speaking for the people of the United States in sending to the Italian people warm fraternal greetings

upon this, the anniversary of the entrance of Italy into this great war, in which there is being fought out once and for all the irrepressible conflict between free self-government and the dictation of force.

" The people of the United States have looked with profound interest and sympathy upon the efforts and sacrifices of the Italian people, and are deeply and sincerely interested in the present and future security of Italy. They are glad to find themselves associated with a people to whom they are bound by so many personal and intimate ties in a struggle whose object is the liberation, freedom, the rights of men and nations to live their own lives, and determine their own fortunes, the rights of the weak, as well as of the strong, and the maintenance of justice by the irresistible force of free nations leagued together in the defence of mankind. With ever increasing resolution and force we shall continue to stand together in this sacred common cause.

« America salutes the gallant kingdom of Italy and bids her godspeed ».

WILSON.

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